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# United States Department of Agriculture,

## BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY,

Seed and Plant Introduction and Distribution,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

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### TANGIER PEA (*Lathyrus tingitanus*).

The Tangier pea is an annual legume, similar in a general way to the garden sweet pea, but much more vigorous in growth. The flowers are deep red and smaller than the sweet pea. In comparison with the vetches and other annual legumes used as winter green-manure crops in California, the Tangier pea has proved to be much more vigorous in growth and to choke out weeds perfectly. At the California Experiment Station a yield of 9 tons per acre in a single cutting has been recorded. Ordinarily, however, it will not yield nearly so large a crop as this.

*Seed.*—The seed of the Tangier pea is not yet upon the market. It weighs 60 pounds to the bushel and is nearly as large as that of the Canada pea, though somewhat flattened. It should be planted in the autumn in the Southern States and in the spring in the Northern States. If broadcasted, about 45 pounds of seed per acre is necessary; if drilled, 30 pounds is sufficient; very excellent stands have been secured by using only 12 pounds to the acre. On account of the enormous mass of rather stout stems which the Tangier pea produces, it is not advisable to plant with oats or barley. If, however, this is done, the amount of the seed should be reduced one-half.

*Value.*—In regard to the feed value of the Tangier pea there are but few data available. However, it is both palatable and nutritious.

As a green-manure crop there is probably no better legume for California, both on account of its enormous mass of herbage and its great ability to choke out weeds.

This pea should be tested extensively, especially in comparison with common vetch wherever that is grown.

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